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NOVEMBER 2008

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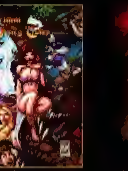

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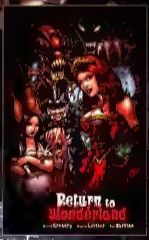

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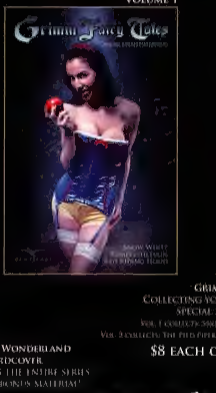

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Heavy Metal
November 2008
Volume XXXII No. 7

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PUBLISHER'S NOTE

Hey Gang,

Happy November issue, and thanks for joining us once again! I usually ramble on a bit about a little of this and that before jumping into what is going on in this month's issue, but I'm going to spare you all of that this time around as I am super excited about all the players this time out!

BUT FIRST—I want to give a special shout out to Thomas Von Kummant, who colored the cover for artist Adriano De Vincentiis for the "Summer 2008" issue, and was not credited in said issue. By the way, Thomas also did development work on one of the segments for the new HM film—can't wait for you to see THAT!

Now on to the issue… It has been far too long since we've had James Ryman on the cover, and I couldn't be more thrilled with this knock out. Trust me, it won't be so long before he's back again. Keep up the great work, buddy!

Continuing art-wise, this couldn't be a better collection of top shelf talent jammed into this puppy. Simon Bisley has spent the last seven months cranking out twelve new paintings for covers and posters, as well as a 2010 calendar—but we couldn't wait that long to show you what he's been up to! So here you go ladies and gentlemin, Simon Bisley.

If that wasn't enough, the Bell/Palumbo "Tarot Card" gallery segment continues, and based on fan reaction thus far, we're going to keep it going for a while longer. Super fine artist, Melanie Delon is making a special appearance in the "Artist Studio" thanks to our old friend, Alan Lynch reminding us what a talent she is. And lastly a special thanks to Cesar Brittez for joining us in the "Featured Artist" and Donald Caron "Back Cover Artist" hot spots.

We've had a lot of requests to continue the "Felicidad" storyline since its first appearance back in 2005—and I'm sorry it took me so long to get it back in, so I want to thank you all for waiting so long, and sending all the e-mails telling me to get it back on track. Enjoy!

I tried to mix up the short stories more than I have been lately, adding some classics, Jodorowsky and Ladronn, with the new guys, R.G. Llarena and Axel Medellin Machain, with really new guy and Norma Publishing contest winner; Mikal Janin. "Calling of the Deep" by Avery Butterworth, and "Even Demons Have a Heart" by Popescu and Farina couldn't take us home any better—and as always, can't thank you enough for sending your work our way.

Before I thank Mr. Ringgenberg for his always wonderful contributions with "Dossier" I just want to say that as we slide into Fall in grand fashion, I hope you all had the best summer ever—gas prices aside—here's to looking at a new White House manager by the time I write the next Publishers note. Oh yes, thanks Steve.

Talk to you all soon.

Kit Eastman

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Dear HM,
Holy balls! It's been YEARS since the last time I posted here. Way back then I was planning to make an indie film that featured one of the main characters reading a Heavy Metal magazine in a couple of scenes. But, life intervened and I was not able to complete said project. Right now I'm working on a comic book and thinking about submitting a short story for HM Magazine in the near future.
Shawn

Dear Shawn,
Great to hear from you and welcome back. Never too late to work on your film, life will always get in the way, but make time and it will happen. In the meantime, feel free to send along any short stories you have in mind, and keep in mind they need to be in finished publishable form.

Dear HM,
From a Heavy Metal fanatic- thank you so @#$%& much for making another feature film!! I really never thought I would see the day. Will Simon be involved at all? I know it's a long shot, but Simon had this story in the January 1981 issue called "Stain". That story is my favorite story to ever appear in my 17 plus years of reading the magazine. I know you are probably not going to adapt "Stain" from paper to the silver screen, but that would be great!
Harry

Dear Harry,
Thanks. We're pretty excited about the new film! Of course we'll find a way to have Simon involved. It would be a shame to have a new HM film without the Biz, and maybe this time we can do his work justice. We'll keep you posted, and as for "Stains", I'd love to see that as a complete film on its own.

Dear HM,
I am working on two storylines (one fantasy and one science fiction) that are long, but told in chapters/episodes. Each chapter is around seven or eight pages long and was done with HM in mind. Should I send in a couple of chapters and see what the consensus is?
Sal

Dear Sal,
Yes, you should. As mentioned above, the work needs to be in finished printable form, (in case we run one right away) but either way, I'll let you know what my thoughts are. Also, keep in mind that we schedule work nearly a year in advance- although we mix things up a bit just before press time, I like to have the feature stories locked in.

Dear HM,
Huh? Is there a new live action Ninja Turtles movie in the works? I heard very little information on it. Just that it is going to be closer to what you originally intended TMNT to be…
Jerimiah Isaac Harris

Dear Jerimiah,
I don't address too many TMNT questions here, but is all relative as I feel something to do with them- as well as publishing this little baby! After the last (CG) TMNT film, there was talk of another- or a live action version with CG Turtles. I hope they try the latter- and kudos to Peter Laird and the Imagi gang for pulling together such a great film. As you know (or maybe you don't) I have sold all my interest in the TMNT's shortly after the release of the last film- and will always remain very happy with all my choices regarding the characters I helped give birth to.

Dear HM,
After you (and everybody else) watch the trailer to Zack (300), Snyder's caretake on Alan Moore and Dave Gibbon's monolith graphic novel, you'll probably need a new pair of undies. God bless Mr. Snyder (I was surprised he read HM when he was a teenager) and the people involved. 2009 seems too far away…
Macbandit

Dear Macbandit,
I couldn't resist running your thoughts on "mistchmen". I think the film will be all it should be, with the highest respects paid to the creators, to an amazing director. I hear Vaughn Boden's "Colbalt 60" is in his pipeline as well. Cool beans.

MEDIA BLASTERS

BIBLE BLACK ORIGINS WITH BIBLE BLACK The Game

A double dose of sex and the supernatural! In Bible Black: The Game, you play Minoru, a mild-mannered student who's plunged into the middle of a sinister conspiracy involving witchcraft, murder and perversion when he discovers an ancient tome known as the Bible Black. Bible Black Origins tells the secret history of the Bible Black and the coven of teenage witches who first unleashed its power. Includes Bible Black Origins on DVD an the Bible Black interactive PC Game.

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Kintaro Oe was at the top of his class at the Tokyo University Law School, one of the most prestigious in the entire world. Mastering the entire curriculum easily, he vanishes just before graduation. Now he takes across Japan on a quest to learn what's most important in life. The lessons that can't be studied in a classroom. First stop is an upstart software company where the cheerily dressed Lady President has curves that defy computation. Then he tutors a poor little rich girl who's looking for a little experience. Very educational! But nothing can compare to Kintaro's racing challenge against a motorcycle queen who literally loves her bike. She would make anyone want to stay up all night studying! Bouncing beauties keep tumbling across the pages of Kintaro's notebook. However, they'll be the ones learning their lesson in the end. See? Studying can by fun!

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DISCIPLINE The Record Of A Crusade

Kayami transfers to the previously all-girl university of St. Arcadia, and his once normal life immediately takes trouble-some turn. After his innocence is stripped away by strange dorm mates, a nagging two-faced friend, a nymphomaniac teacher and several corrupted sports clubs he fears that things can't get any worse. That is until he meets the sadistic heiress Leona Morimoto. Includes the interactive Discipline PC game, a Best Of Kitty DVD trailer disc and a Kitty T-Shirt.

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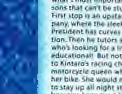

FLOWER AND SNAKE The Animation

Shizuka, a 26-year-old housewife, is lured into a trap when her stepdaughter is kidnapped by the Kazama gang. The kidnapping scheme was hatched by an evil CEO whose main plan goal is to make Shizuka his sex slave. Eventually, she's coerced into performing a bizarre sex show in front of a large audience. They force Shizuko to perform with her stepdaughter. Though she refuses at first, she gradually accepts and decides to roll with the twisted pleasure of it all.

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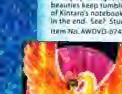

CONSENTING ADULTERY

Kota Hayamiis the superintendents at an apartment building, where lonely husbands and horny housewives reside. When the ladies are feeling particularly unsatisfied with their husbands, they call upon Kota for some personalized handiwork. Thinking he's making mere service calls, Kota innocently arrives at the ladies' apartments. But it doesn't take long for Kota to catch on that it's the ladies that require the maintenance. Fortunately for Kota, he's got the right tools for the job.

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MY CLASSMATE'S MOTHER

Jun is a lovesick student at Seikyo School. One of his classmate's, Sai, has the hots for him. But Jun has a taste for the forbidden, ripened fruit: Sai's mother Keiko, who also happens to be their teacher. Little does he know that he's about to sample the best of both worlds. Whether he's satisfying Sai's sexual curiosity or satisfying his own with the experienced Keiko, Jun always gets an A for effort!

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SIMOUN Volume One – Choir Of Pears

The peaceful nation of Simulacrum is under attack, and their last line of defense are ancient magical flying machines known as "Simoun" The Simoun can only be piloted by a pair of romantically-linked young maidens. Ayer, a newly recruited Simoun pilot, is paired up with Regina, the veteran leader of the Choir Tempest squadron. However, Regina is still heartbroken over the recent death of Amuria, her previous co-pilot. Can Ayer find a way to win both her wings and Regina's heart?

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Throughout time, mankind has chased after the dream of immortality. The Phoenix, in the form of a bird of fire, is said to hold the key to eternal life. Great warriors, greedy princesses, ambitious scientists and ordinary people desire its power. Great wars are fought in a vain attempt to possess it and, as a result, civilizations rise and fall. Phoenix is a collection of five stories from the past, present and future. Many will perish because of their desires, and they are the lucky ones. True pain comes for those who find immortality and experience the burden of living forever. Based on the classic manga by Osamu Tezuka, creator of Astro Boy and Metropolis.

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PHOENIX VOLUME TWO Eternal Recurrence

All throughout time, men and women have desired the Phoenix, for it brings the promise of eternal life. The epic cycles of the Phoenix continue with three tales of those who quest for immortality, from a tribal chief in the ancient past and the young daughter of a medieval warlord to a cyborg in the distant future. All of them discover that immortality may be more of a burden than a blessing. From Osamu Tezuka, the creator of Astro Boy and Metropolis.

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Makoto and Yuri Onada are a newly married couple. They're happy and deeply in love. But there's just one problem: they're both inexperienced in the ways of intimacy. As a result, their expressions of love and passion tend to be a little awkward. Seeking advice from wherever they can get it (neighbors, relatives, co-workers, etc.), the couple begins to explore all the ins and outs of the marriage life.

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SIMON BISLEY

It has been far too long since we've been able to have a proper "Simon Bisley" presence in the magazine again, and about a year ago Simon and I decided to do something about it!

Although the demand for Simon's immense talents are always high- he's been involved in a number of long term projects such as a one hundred and forty page graphic novel for the "Four Horsemen" video game concept, the "Full Circle" epic that he's been working on with Simon Reed (about one hundred and twenty pages nearly completed that should be out next year), and some outrageous illustrations for Verotik/Danzig - he found the time to pull together a theme for twelve new paintings you see here and will see as various covers and posters before they are all pulled together for a 2010 calendar for release in the Spring.

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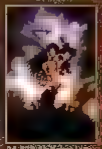
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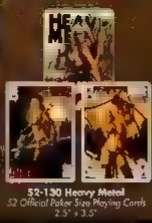

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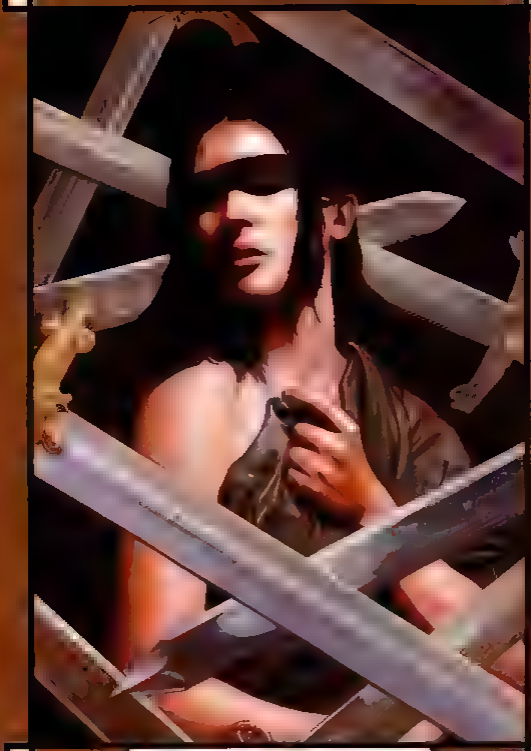

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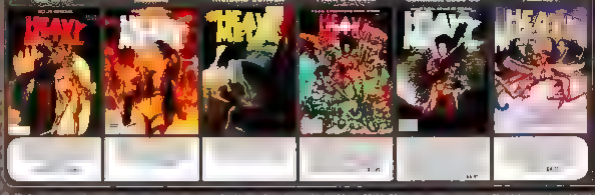

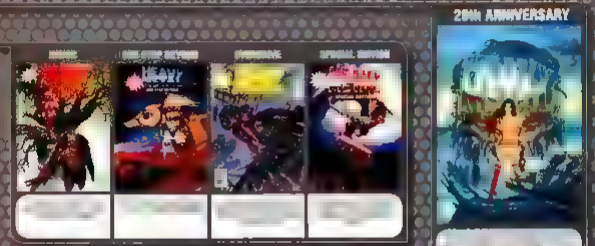

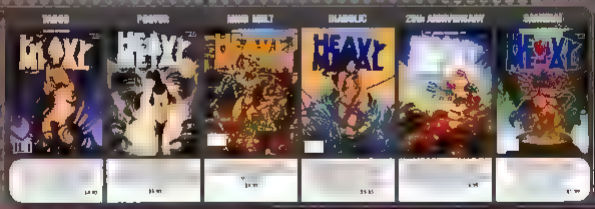

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DANCERS BE PREPARED
ENTERING THE SAMADHI NET. RETRIEVING INFORMATION.
SEVEN THOUSAND VIRTUAL GURUS SUGGEST THIS IS THE PLACE WE SEARCH FOR
EVERYONE READY. INITIATING TANDAVA PROTOCOLS.

DAUGHTERS OF THE HOLY MOTHER KALI...
YOU THAT DON'T KNOW FEAR
DANCE WITH FRENZY!
AND WITH YOUR DANCE UNTIL WHAT CONFUSES US
TEAR THE MAYA SNAKE!

AND SHOW US REALITY!
SHIVA PROTECTS US!
HOLD THE PERIMETER!

STUPID MANDHATRI
YOU DON'T KNOW WHAT'S AT STAKE HERE
IT ENDS HERE
NO
SURRENDER OR DIE!!!
AHHHHHHHHHH!

ENTERING THE SAMADHI NET
SEARCHING FOR A VIRTUAL-REAL MANIFESTATION. FOUND. DOWNLOADING AGNI.
MATERIALIZING AGNI.
ARRRRRGHHHH!
NO, NO! YOU DON'T KNOW WHAT YOU ARE DOING
THE CONTAINER JUST DELAYS THE PROCESS. IF YOU FREE HER
SHE WILL RETURN TO HER PLACE AS THE GREAT SAVIOR OF OUR ETERNAL HINDU EMPIRE AND HER FOUR HUNDRED WORLDS.
UNGHHH
MANOHATRI I BEG YOU
SHE'S NOT WHAT HE THINKS SHE WAS
LET ME EXPLAIN UNGHHH!
YOU FOOL! NOTHING TO EXPLAIN TRAITOR!
YOU AND I ARE OF THE FORTUNATE FEW WHO MANAGED TO RETURN FROM THAT BLACK HOLE!
SHE GUIDED US AND HELPED US TO DISCOVER THINGS WE DIDN'T EVEN SUSPECT EXISTED!

WE... WE DIDN'T KNOW WHAT WE WERE BRINGING BACK
SHE DOESN'T WANT TO HELP US
IT'S... IT'S NOT IN HER NATURE
WE MUST TAKE HER BACK TO THE PLACE WHERE WE FOUND HER
NO... PLEASE... SHE IS THE... INCESTAL... KNITH OF THE COSMIC CENSORSHIP
WON
OUR SAVOIR MUST BE FREED
MY LADY, IT'S AN HONOR TO SEE YOU AGAIN
WE OFFER YOU... UH?

WE APOLOGIZE FOR OUR ASTONISHMENT. MY LADY WE HAD NO IDEA...
Certainly, you had no idea.
Due to many laws that are beyond your understanding, I'm compelled to create
Inside me a tiny universe has been pestering
A universe that should have been born in what you call another time and another place.
A tiny precious universe that no matter what will do everything it can to grow to create its own laws, to expand and manifest its own life
Even if to achieve its purpose...
...destroys everything that came before.
THE END... OR A BEGINNING

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1933: A Year to Remember!

1933 was an important year in world history. It was the year the United States repealed Prohibition, ending 14 years of a failed attempt at social engineering that helped create the vast power and wealth of organized crime in the U.S. It also saw the rise of another type of gangsterism when Adolph Hitler became the Chancellor of Germany. This tragic year would also prove to be a watershed in other ways as well, for it saw the debuts of two characters who would change the face of pop culture forever: King Kong, the Eighth Wonder of the World, and Doc Savage, the Man of Bronze. Other popular characters debuted that same year, notably the Lone Ranger on radio, however, this time out, I'd like to focus on two of my very favorite fictional creations, King Kong and Doc Savage, both of whom are celebrating their 75th anniversaries this year.

Hollywood's Tallest, Darkest Leading Man Celebrates His Diamond Anniversary

Among the other amazing things that the year 1933 bore witness to, it saw the premiere of *King Kong*, one of the most popular and influential films of all time. *Kong* is a film whose special effects still have the power to capture an audience's attention despite incredible advances in movie-making technology. *Kong*'s debut in the movie palaces of the day was literally earth shaking. The film was so profitable that it actually saved RKO Studios from bankruptcy. Although America was in the grip of the Great Depression, moviegoers dug deep into their pockets to see it. The film premiered at two major movie houses, Radio City Music Hall and the RKO Roxy Theater simultaneously, the only time this ever happened. And in the ensuing decades, every time RKO needed an influx of cash, all that the studio had to do was re-release *King Kong*. Because of *Kong*'s unbreakable connection with New York City, for many years one of the local TV stations would show *Kong*, *Son of Kong*, and *Mighty Joe Young* every Thanksgiving Day.

This cinematic classic was the brainchild of Merian C. Cooper, a two-fisted producer and aviation executive who had made his premiere *Kong* reputation by traveling the world with his partner director Ernest Schoedsack, to film *Grass* and *Chang*, two of the most remarkable adventure and wildlife documentaries ever produced. But after leaving the film business to make a fortune establishing the aviation industry in the U.S., Cooper chafed at sitting behind a desk and longed to be back with Schoedsack, traveling to the world's remotest locations and risking life and limb to bring rampaging tigers and charging elephants into the world's cinema palaces. After hearing about the giant Komodo dragons from a fellow explorer, Cooper started thinking about traveling to the remote island of Komodo and using these living dinosaurs in a film showing them battling a giant ape. Fortunately, Cooper heard about the work of a man named Willis O'Brien, who pioneered the use of stop motion animation, using jointed models and moving them a frame at a time to bring dinosaurs and other fantastic beasts to life. Impressed by the quality of O'Brien's work, Cooper hired him to bring *Kong* to the silver screen. And the rest is history. Of course, Cooper, Schoedsack and O'Brien couldn't bring *Kong* to life by themselves. They needed an army of talented artisans and craftsmen laboring behind the scenes to make an epic this size, including a cast that featured the Fay Wray (filmdom's greatest screamer), legendary movie tough guy Bruce Cabot and the bombastic Robert Armstrong (playing Carl Denham, a thinly-veiled caricature of Cooper himself). Adding to the films visual excitement was Max Steiner's classic score.

Rampaging through the jungles of Skull Island, and then trashing New York City, *Kong* established the template for the giant monster on the loose genre. It has been endlessly copied, but never duplicated. The only film that even came close was Peter Jackson's hails-but-monolithic 2005 remake. Even RKO's official sequel, *Son of Kong*, released the same year as the first *Kong* to cash in on its considerable success, but made far less than half of *Kong*'s budget, only managed to be a pale imitation of the imperishable original. None of the other *Kong* copies, homages, or outright ripoffs have even come anywhere near to matching its impact, with the two *Kong* films produced by Dino De Laurentiis, which were released in 1976 and 1986 respectively, being particularly egregious insults to the classic film whose memory they so callously exploited. Even the cheaply-made Japanese *Kong* pictures, *King Kong Escapes* (1967) and *King Kong vs. Godzilla* (1962) had more heart than DeLaurentiis's mind-numbingly bad films even though they turned the stop-motion *Kong* into a guy in a baggy gorilla suit stomping around a bunch of miniature sets and pulling around with Godzilla. Strangely enough, the British film industry got into the act with *Konga* (1961), which featured another man in a gorilla suit terrorizing miniature sets of London. Cooper himself even tried to copy *Kong*'s success in the late 1940's with *Mighty Joe Young*, once more enlisting Willis O'Brien and Robert Armstrong to bring a giant gorilla story to the movies. It was a hit, and won O'Brien a well-deserved special effects Oscar, but still couldn't do more than remind people how great the original *Kong* was. Really, what all of these other films failed to do as thrill audiences (the way *Kong* has been thrilling moviegoers for the last 75 years.

Such has been *Kong*'s monstrous grip on the movie-going public's imagination that he has become a multi-industry himself, spawning a whole slew of books, including multiple movie novelizations in paperback with covers by the likes of James Bama and Frank Frazetta, model kits, toys, salt and pepper shakers, and, thanks to Peter Jackson's film, a whole series of high-quality collectible statues, busts, and bookends (see the sidebar in my column for a review of one of the best *Kong* artifacts). There have been *Kong* posters, postcards, comic books, reams of cartoons parodying almost every aspect of the film, even an animated series in the 1960s

that turned him into the cuddly companion of a small boy. But no matter what the entertainment industry does to him, and no matter how many times he gets shot off the Empire State Building by that squadron of biplanes, *Kong* is truly deathless, a film legend whose fame grows with each passing century. Happy anniversary, Big Guy! Have a banana! Another 75 years of cinematic immortality!

After 75 Years, The Doctor Is *Still* In!

To me, Doc Savage is the flagman of all pulp characters. When it comes to heroes from the pulps, only Tarzan, Conan the Barbarian, The Shadow, or Dashiell Hammett's hard-boiled protagonists have ever rivaled the blast of Bronze in terms of popularity. Even though the last of his pulp adventures rolled off the presses more than 60 years ago, there seems to be an endless appetite for the adventures of Doc and his crew: the Fabulous Five: Monk, Ham, Renny, Johnny and Long Tom. If you've never read a Doc Savage book, Doc is a globe-trotting adventurer who has dedicated his life and considerable personal fortune to fighting evil in all its forms. As the enchanted back cover copy from the Doc Savage paperback series proclaimed, "To the world at large, Doc Savage is a strange, mysterious figure of glistening bronze skin and golden eyes. To his amazing co-adventurers—the five greatest brains ever assembled in one group—he is a man of superhuman strength and protean genius, whose life is dedicated to the destruction of evildoers. To his foes he is one of the greatest adventure heroes of all time, whose fantastic exploits are unequalled for hair-raising thrills, breathtaking escapes and blood-curdling excitement."

Such is Doc's grip on the public imagination that even into the present era, writers like Philip Jose Farmer and Will Murray were continuing or writing pastiches of Doc's exploits. Farmer wrote *Escape from Loki*, a Doc prequel in 1991, after writing a fictional biography of Doc and his kin, and a pair of novels starring "Doc Caliban," a thinly veiled version of you-know-who. Will Murray, on the other hand, tried to directly continue Doc's legacy by writing seven Doc Savage adventures based on unused pulp plots written by Doc's creator Lester Dent. Four others were announced but have yet to see print. In addition to these novels, Doc has had his adventures chronicled in original comic book stories put out by Street and Smith, Marvel Comics, DC Comics, Dark Horse, and Millennium, with a one-shot adaptation of the novel, *The Thousand-Headed Man* published by Gold Key in the mid-60s.

Oddly enough, despite his vast popularity with his fans, Doc has had a rather spotty career as a media property. In the 1930's and 40's, The Shadow ruled the airwaves and the silver screen, with a popular and long-running radio show, a serial, and several films. The most recent Shadow film (1996) was a nicely mounted affair that was probably intended to be the start of a new Shadow franchise, though it flopped with critics and fans. Even though Doc was definitely one of the most popular pulp characters ever, there was never a Doc Savage serial, or any feature films made during the period when his pulp magazine was still being published. There were two short-lived radio shows in 1934, with scripts by Lester Dent and a later series in 1943 that was based not on the Doc Savage pulp magazine, but on the Street and Smith Doc Savage comic book, which turned Doc into a quasi-superhero due to his finding a magic gem in Tibet. 1985 brought a Doc Savage radio show on National Public Radio, with scripts by Will Murray and Roger Rittner that adapted two of the pulp adventures. There have been some Doc Savage model kits and limited edition statues, but no toys or action figures. You'd think with all of the gadgets that Doc employed, he would have been a natural for toy companies.

A Doc film was planned for the mid-60s with Chuck (The Rifleman) Connors cast as Doc, but it was never made. The only Doc Savage film to date, *Doc Savage, the Man of Bronze*, released in 1975, was a huge disappointment to Doc fans. It was done on an inadequate budget with a campy script that was full of inappropriate elements. Hannah-Barbera commissioned Doug Wildey to work up some conceptual art for a proposed Doc Savage animated series, but it was not picked up. There have been rumors of a new Doc Savage film from time to time, even one starring Arnold Schwarzenegger as Doc, but so far, cinematic success has eluded Doc.

However, one arena in which Doc has been a huge success is publishing. He is the only pulp character to have all of his adventures reprinted in paperback form, all 181 of them, including a "lost" Doc Savage novel, *The Red Spider*, that was commissioned and then killed when a new editor was brought on board to edit the Doc Savage pulp.

Although he only painted 62 of the first 67 covers, James Bama's conception of Doc was so vastly powerful and so skillfully executed that he set the standard for how the pulp adventurer should be depicted forever afterward. There is absolutely no doubt that James Bama's covers were essential to Doc Savage's fabulous success as the paperback character with combined sales of over 20 million dollars. Even though his mysterious rival overshadowed him during the pulp era, in the end, Doc got the last laugh. There were several attempts to revive the Shadow in the 60s and the 80s, but none came anywhere near the levels achieved by the Doc Savage series.

Bantam stopped publishing the Doc Savage books years ago, but fortunately for Doc's legion of fans, publisher Anthony Tollin's Nostalgia Ventures began a new series of Doc reprints in November of 2006 which featured covers by original Doc artist Walter Baumhofer, and reprints of the popular Bama covers. These trade paperbacks contain two Doc novels apiece, as well as the original pulp magazine illustrations and articles by pulp experts like Will Murray. They're a good buy at $12.95, especially since the Bantam paperbacks are becoming increasingly scarce and expensive on the used book market, and the original pulps are slowly turning to dust. If your local bookstore doesn't carry them, then go to: www.nostalgiaventures.com for ordering information and a complete list of Doc Savage and Shadow reprints. As always, tell em *Hooey Monai* sent you.

Let me end my celebratory tribute to the Man of Bronze by reprinting the Doc Savage creed: *"Let me strive every moment of my life to make myself better and better, to the best of my ability, that all may profit by it. Let me think of the right and lend all my assistance to those who need it, with no regard for anything but justice. Let me take what comes with a smile, without loss of courage. Let me be considerate of my country, of my fellow citizens and my associates in everything I say and do. Let me do right to all, and wrong no man."* Even after the passage of so many decades, these are still excellent words to live by. Monai-Heads See you in 60

FELICIDAD | THE OTHER WORLD

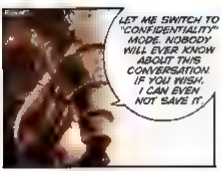
Pascal Maudi
Vincent Fridcourt

THAT NIGHT, WILLIAM WENT DOWN IN THE WEDGE TO KILL GUNTER
PLEASE!!!
WILLIAM, ANSWER ME
YOU CAN LOWER YOUR GUNS, I WON'T HARM YOU UNLIKE GUNTER WHO WOULD HAVE DONE IT WITHOUT HESITATING
BUT HE WOULDN'T DO IT ANYMORE

JODIE
ISAAC
YOUR BROTHER WAS WORRIED ABOUT YOU DISAPPEARING HE SENT ME TO YOUR RESCUE. WILLIAM KILLED GUNTER
MAYBE YOU HEARD THE GUNSHOTS?
NO
I DIDN'T HEAR ANYTHING.
I WANTED TO SEE THE LANDSCAPE!
IT'S POSSIBLE SINCE THIS HAPPENED IN THE BACK OF THE SHIP THE PROBABILITY OF ME FINDING YOU HERE WAS MINIMAL
MY REMARK DIDN'T CALL FOR AN EXPLANATION FROM YOU, JODIE.

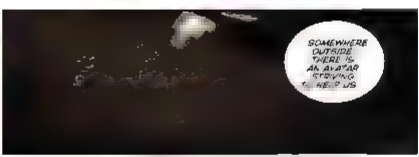
I ALWAYS FORGET THAT YOU'RE A ROBOT! A SOPHISTICATED ONE BUT A ROBOT NONETHELESS. APOLOGIZE!
YOU DON'T NEED TO APOLOGIZE EITHER, JODIE. I CAN SENSE YOU ARE ON THE DEFENSIVE. MAYBE YOU COULD TELL ME WHY.

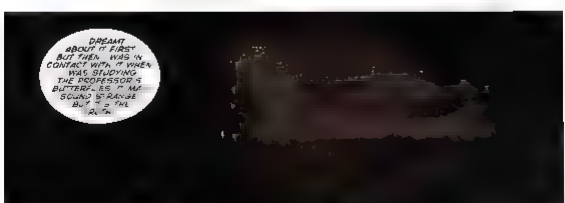
I YOU WON'T REPEAT WHAT I WILL TELL YOU. WILL YOU?


LET ME SWITCH TO "CONFIDENTIALITY" MODE. NOBODY WILL EVER KNOW ABOUT THIS CONVERSATION. IF YOU WISH. I CAN EVEN NOT SAVE IT.

IF YOU DON'T SAVE WHAT I'M ABOUT TO TELL YOU INTO YOUR MEMORY THEN IT DOESN'T MATTER IF I TE... YOU OR NOT.
MAYBE ALL YOU NEED IS TO EXPRESS YOURSELF, JODIE. YOU, ME THE JUDGE OF THAT.

KEEP IT FOR YOURSELF!


SOMEWHERE OUTSIDE THERE IS AN AVATAR STRIVING TO REACH US


DREAMT ABOUT IT FIRST BUT THEN WAS IN CONTACT WITH IT WHEN WAS STUDYING THE PROFESSOR'S BUTTERFLIES. IT WE SOUND IS RAGE BUT IT'S THE RIGHT

JODIE ASSURED ME THAT SHE WAS VERY WORRIED. THE AVATAR SEEMED TO SUGGEST THAT EXCEPT HER, OTHER MEMBERS OF "THE DARLING" WERE DESTINED TO SUFFER THE SAME HORRIBLE FATE AS GUNTER

THAT'S WHY SHE WENT UPSTAIRS TO THE PILOT'S CABIN OF THE SHIP, TO TRY TO COMMUNICATE WITH IT ONE MORE TIME TO KNOW MORE IN VAIN.

THAT SEEMED TO EASE HER WORRIES. WITH THAT SAID I TOOK HER BACK TO HER BROTHER. AN HOUR LATER WE STARTED THE ENGINES AGAIN AND CONTINUED ON OUR JOURNEY.

THE AVATARS CONTINUED TO FOLLOW US AT NIGHTTIME AS WE ALWAYS DO SINCE OUR DEPARTURE. WE DROPPED ANCHOR IN THE MIDDLE OF THE RIVER. DJAB AND HARRY THREW GUNTER'S BODY IN THE WATER.

FINALLY, THE CREW GATHERED IN THE MAIN CABIN, LEAVING ME TO WATCH OVER "THE DARLING."

AND DON'T TELL ME YOU'RE NOT RELIEVED THIS MONSTROSITY IS GONE!

HAND ME YOUR WEAPON WILLIAM. YOU'VE BECOME TOO UNPREDICTABLE AND DANGEROUS.

ME?! UNPREDICTABLE AND DANGEROUS! FUCK, THAT'S A GOOD ONE! I'M THE ONLY ONE WITH BALLS ON THIS FUCKING BARGE!

I RID YOU OF THIS SPLINTER IN YOUR FOOT BY KILLING GUNTER, AND HERE IS HOW YOU REPAY ME!
LISTEN TO ME CAREFULLY CARLO!
YOU'RE GONNA HAVE TO GET USED TO "THIS UNPREDICTABLE AND DANGEROUS" THREAT THAT I AM, BECAUSE I WON'T HAND YOU MY WEAPON! DON'T EVEN THINK ABOUT IT NEVER!
WITH THAT SAID YOU CAN ALWAYS TRY TO
ALRIGHT EVERYBODY'S ON EDGE! I'M SURE CARLO DIDN'T MEAN WHAT HE SAID!
NOT AT ALL! I MEANT EVERY SINGLE WORD I SAID! THIS FUCK IS SO STRUNG UP
THAT HE COULD KILL ANYONE OF US IF WE'D EVEN SNEEZE!

THANKFULLY CARLO AND WILLIAM CALMED DOWN. BUT AS THE DAYS WENT BY THE MORALE ON "THE DARLING" WENT DOWN TO A WHOLE NEW LEVEL

"DELINQUO-DECADENCE" IS THE BEST ADJECTIVE I COULD COME UP WITH TO SUM UP THE SITUATION. CARLO IS PROBABLY RIGHT WHEN HE SAYS THAT WILLIAM HAS BECOME A DANGER FOR ALL

THE STOPPED MULTIPLYING. IT MUST BE DUE TO THE FACT THAT THEY ARE NOW IN A REDUCED ENVIRONMENT. IN FACT
THINK THEY CAN ADAPT TO THEIR ENVIRONMENT AS CERTAIN AS FISH DO
GROW BIGGER AS THE ENVIRONMENT THEY LIVE IN GETS BIGGER OR WHETHER THEY LIVE IN A NATURAL MILIEU OR IN CAPTIVITY. A SCARY THOUGHT
WHEN WE KNOW THAT THESE BUTTERFLIES HAVE THE ENTIRE PLANET TO DEVELOP!

AAAAH-
"GWENALYS? WHAT'S THE PROBLEM?"
GWENALYS
TELL ME WHAT'S WRONG!
I AM BECOMING LIKE THEM
I CAN FEEL IT OH MY GOD NO NOT ME! PLEASE!

I DON'T KNOW. I LEFT HER NEXT TO THE BUTTERFLY TANK
WHERE IS SHE?
LISTEN.
SHE'S HERE! I CAN HEAR HER CRY!
GWEN...?

I DON'T WANT TO DIE!!
GWEN, THERE IS NO WAY YOU'RE GOING TO DIE!
DON'T WANT TO DIE WHATEVER HAPPENS I MADE UP MY MIND!
GUNTER HAS MORPHED, BUT HE KEPT LUCID UNTIL THE END!
IT WON'T HAPPEN TO YOU!

OF COURSE IT WILL! IT'S OVER LOOK! YOU MUST TAKE ME TO SHORE BEFORE MY CONDITION WORSENS! YOU MUST PROMISE ME NOW!
ALRIGHT I WILL TALK TO CARLO AND HARRY AND FIGURE OUT HOW TO PROCEED SO THAT WILLIAM DOESN'T INTERVENE! GWEN, YOU STAY HERE WITH MARIPOSA AND JODIE
BUT IF YOUR BEHAVIOR BECOMES IRRATIONAL YOU WILL NEED TO BE LOCKED UP! NOW, STAY PUT! I WILL BE AS FAST AS POSSIBLE

DON'T MOVE!
WHAT ARE YOU DOING, DJAS? WHY DON'T YOU TELL ME, HUH? YOU DON'T HAVE THE BALLS TO USE YOUR FUCKING GUN!
IF I WERE YOU I WOULDN'T COUNT ON IT
GO AHEAD THEN, SHOOT ME LIKE A DOG! JUST BLOW MY BRAINS OUT JUST FOR FUN!
GO AHEAD BADARR
CARLO TAKE HIS WEAPON AWAY
TRY ME!
HURRY UP CARLO!

TAKE THAT, BITCH!
OUCH!
YOU'RE GONNA PAY FOR THIS!
YOU'RE LUCKY WILLIAM I COULDN'T KILL
AARGGH! SON OF A BITCH! YOU FUCKED UP MY LEG!
I'M BLEEDING TO DEATH!
HARRY, GO GET ISAAC AND SEE IF HE CAN TAKE CARE OF HIM! I'M GOING BACK TO THE OTHERS. AND DON'T LET THAT SCUM OUT OF YOUR SIGHT!
ALRIGHT, I'LL SEE YOU LATER! BE CAREFUL!

TAKE ME TO THEM!
WHAT
NO NEED TO GET TOO CLOSE TO THE GIA! I WILL MEET THEM SWIMMING
I DON'T WANT TO BE LEFT ALONE, PROFESSOR NOT WHEN I'M GOING TO MORPH AND NOT AFTER ALL ALONE LOST
IN THIS GREAT WILDERNESS
IT'S BEYOND MY POWER WHAT I AM EXPERIENCING THEY'VE EXPERIENCED AS WELL. THEY WON'T HARM ME!
PLEASE DO AS SAY

GWEN
THE BULLET WENT THROUGH THE THIGH FROM ONE END TO THE OTHER WITHOUT CAUSING FURTHER DAMAGE BESIDES RIPPING THROUGH THE FLESH. I WILL PROCEED TO ANESTHETISE LOCALLY
THEN CLEAN UP AND SEW THE FLESH BACK TOGETHER YOU WON'T FEEL A THING. YOU'LL BE BACK ON YOUR FEET IN A DAY OR TWO
DO AS YOU WISH. BUT HURRY THE FUCK UP!

GOOD MORNING JODIE!
WHAT WILL HAPPEN TO GWENALYS, TO MY BROTHER, TO THE OTHERS? I WANT TO KNOW!
GWENALYS WILL BECOME SUCH AS THE ONES SHE DECIDED TO JOIN
SHE IS WITH THEM NOW THEY'RE STUDYING HER
IS SHE IN DANGER?
HARD TO SAY. THEIR REACTIONS ARE UNPREDICTABLE SOMETIMES. AND SHE IS STILL VERY HUMAN. VERY DIFFERENT FROM WHAT THEY ARE NOW. SHE IS SCARED!
DON'T KNOW YET WHAT HAPPENED TO HIM.

LISTEN
A FEW MILES AWAY FROM THE RIVER ON LAND THERE ARE OTHER SURVIVORS
FELT THEIR PRESENCE ST A WHILE AGO
I THOUGHT THIS INFORMATION COULD BE OF INTEREST TO YOU AND YOUR CREW!
WHERE ARE YOU?
ELSEWHERE
ON A DIFFERENT
PLANET

SO WHAT DO WE DO??
I AM FOR IT!
YES BUT IT'S BECAUSE WE HAD HOPED TO FIND OTHER SURVIVORS THAT WE DECIDED TO GO TO PUERTA DE LA FELICIDAD
WITH THESE COLONIES OF AVATARS ON OUR TAIL I DON'T KNOW!
I'M UP FOR THE CHALLENGE! I CAN'T SEE MYSELF LEAVING MY BOYS BEHIND WITHOUT EVEN TRYING!
LISTEN HARRY I CAN UNDERSTAND WHY YOU WOULD HESITATE: FOUR OF US ARE ALREADY READY TO GO, AND WE CAN'T LEAVE THE BARGE
I'M UP FOR IT! I HAVE TO ADMIT I COULDN'T SEE MYSELF ABANDONING "THE DARLING"! YOU ALL KNOW HOW MUCH I CARE FOR "MY DARLING"!
WON'T EVEN MENTION THE FACT THAT ISAAC IS LEFT ALONE TO MONITOR WILLIAM! WHO BETTER THAN YOU COULD TAKE CARE OF THEM UNTIL WE RETURN? WHAT DO YOU SAY?!

SONS OF BITCHES! IF YOU THINK THAT THIS IS THE LAST YOU'VE HEARD OR SEEN OF ME YOU ARE DEAD WRONG!
HAVE A SPECIAL SURPRISE FOR YOU ALL, WILLIAM, GIVE YOU MY WORD THAT YOU WILL NEVER NOT KNOWING WE DID PAVE YOU THE SCOUNDRELS!
OK DUDE GO AHEAD AND TELL YOUR MYSTERIOUS FRIEND THAT WE ARE ABOUT TO DISEMBARK AS SOON AS POSSIBLE
WHY DON'T YOU ASK HIM IF HE KNOWS WHERE WE SHOULD DOCK? WE COULD ALSO USE SOME POINTERS ON HOW TO AVOID ALL THE SCAVENGERS
DON'T FEEL LIKE QUIVERING AROUND IN THIS WASTE NOR RISKING OUR LIVES FOR NO REASON

JODIE AND HIS BROTHER, ALONG WITH CARLO AND PROFESSOR MARIPOSA, LEFT "THE DARLING" THAT MORNING. SEARCHING FOR OTHER SURVIVORS

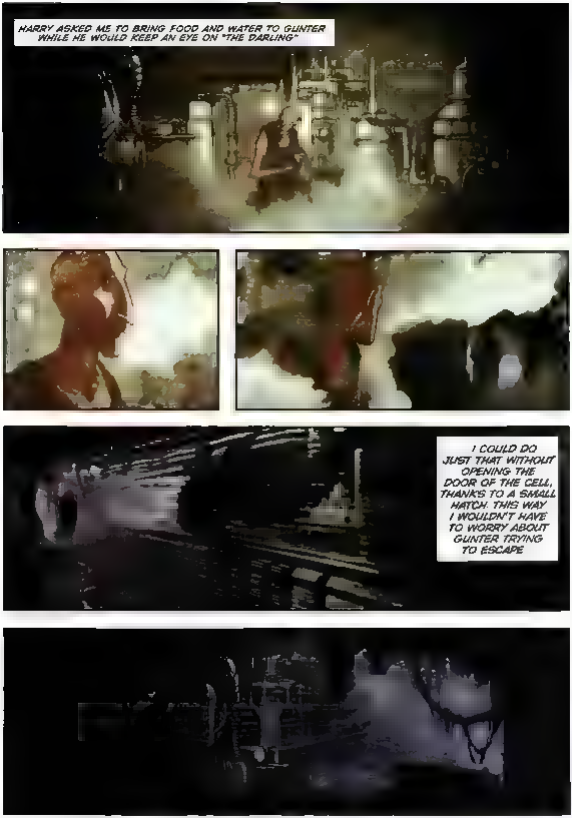
THEY LEFT AFTER ALL THE AVATARS MYSTERIOUSLY DISAPPEARED. WHETHER IT WAS REAL OR NOT
IT REALLY IS STRANGE, ISN'T IT...
NOT REALLY! THE ARCH FIGURE IS FIRST TO TRY AND GET GUNTER BACK. THEN THEY WENT AFTER GWENALYS.

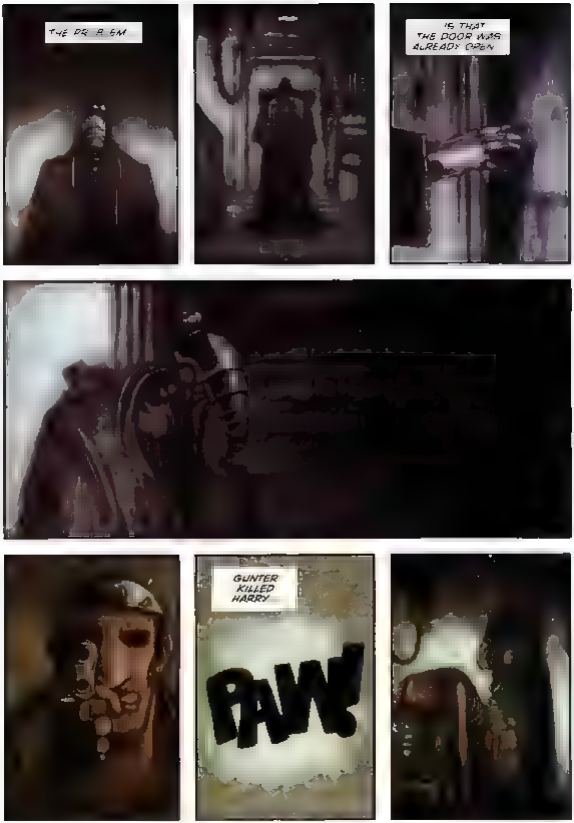
NONE OF THE FOUR EVER COME BACK.

WHY ARE YOU STOPPING? WHAT'S GOING ON?
SOMETHING MOVED
THERE, BEHIND THE BRUSHES!
YOU'RE RIGHT THERE IS SOMETHING
PROFESSOR WATCH OUR BACKS! LET'S SEE WHAT THIS IS ABOUT
?
MY GOD

IT CAN'T BE GWENALYSE!
SHE'S HURT!
WHAT DO WE DO?
WE CAN'T DO ANYTHING FOR HER
DON'T BE AFRAID
WHAT HAPPENED?
THEY MIGHT WANT MAMA
THEY
YOU'VE GOT SCRATCHES ALL OVER YOUR BODY!

THEY KKKKILL MMME
BUT GGGONE NOW
DO YOU KNOW WHERE THEY WENT?!
DON'T KNOW NNNNO !
FFFOLLOWED YOU. A LONE. CAN'T
CALM DOWN WE ARE NOT LEAVING YOU YOU'RE COMING WITH US!
JUDE ! IS OUT OF THE QUESTION
EITHER SHE COMES WITH US OR YOU CONTINUE WITHOUT ME! I'D RATHER DIE THAN LEAVE HER HERE!
IT'S ALRIGHT DJAB GWEN WILL STAY AT A SAFE DISTANCE AND WE LL KEEP AN EYE ON HER


HARRY ASKED ME TO BRING FOOD AND WATER TO GUNTER WHILE HE WOULD KEEP AN EYE ON "THE DARLING"
I COULD DO JUST THAT WITHOUT OPENING THE DOOR OF THE CELL, THANK'S TO A SMALL HATCH. THIS WAY I WOULDN'T HAVE TO WORRY ABOUT GUNTER TRYING TO ESCAPE


THE PRISM
IS THAT THE DOOR WAS ALREADY OPEN
GUNTER KILLED HARRY
PAW!

NOW ONLY HIM AND I ARE LEFT ON THE BARGE.
ER, YOU SURE THIS IS THE RIGHT DIRECTION?
WE DOCKED EXACTLY WHERE HE TOLD ME TO THEN HEADED EAST
WE SHOULD SEE THEM SOON!
LET'S HOPE SO. IT'S EASY TO GET LOST IN THIS JUNGLE!
THEANN NOT ER SSSMELL THEM
WHAT?
METAAMORPH NNNOT FAR THEM
GREAT. THAT'S ALL WE NEED
LET'S TAKE CARE OF THE REST OF THESE SCUMBAGS!

WHAT WAS THAT?
AN EXPLOSION THERE
METAMORPH DEAD NANOT Aaaa
OTHERS AFFRAID
LEADER POWERFUL ANNNGRY
COMING HERE WASN'T THE BRIGHTEST IDEA!
ENOUGH TALK. THEY PROBABLY NEED US THERE
ON PAGE 99

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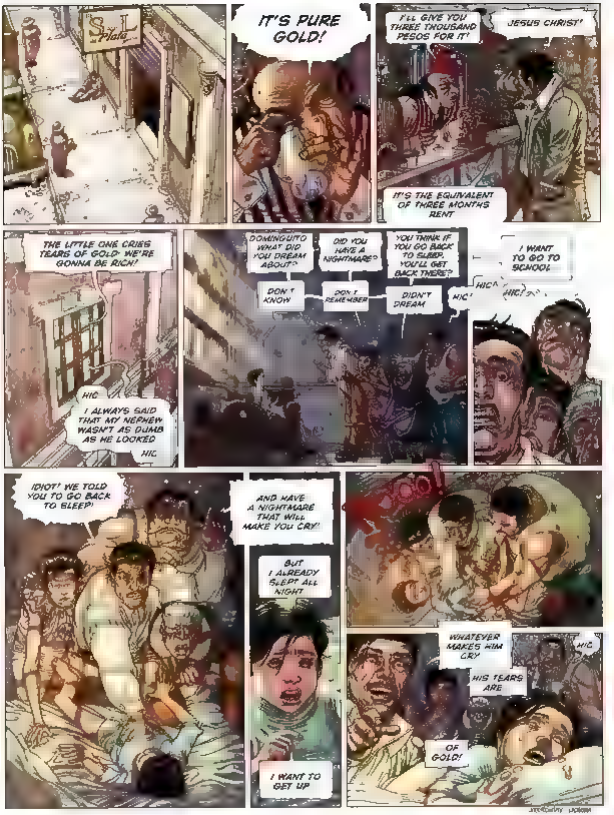
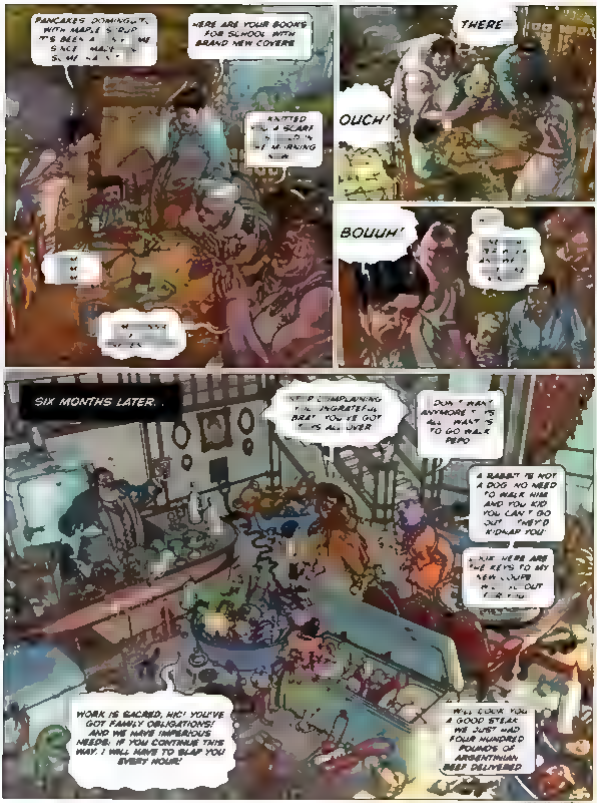
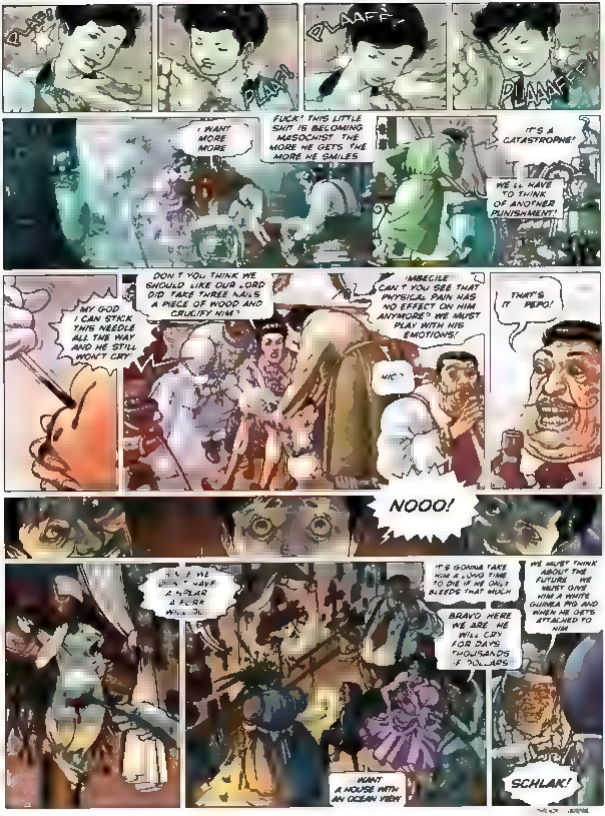
AAHHHH!
IT WAS ALL THAT WAS LEFT FROM A ONCE PROSPEROUS AND WELCOMING PLANET THAT THE FOLLY OF ITS INHABITANTS HAD DESTROYED A LONG TIME AGO...
AAAUUU
TEARS OF GOLD
...A PIECE OF HEAVY METAL, LIVING IN THE COSMOS.
AAAHHHHH!
SOMETIMES, AS IT CROSSES THE SKY OF ONE INHABITED PLANET, IT WILL SHARE ITS SORROW WITH A LIVING BEING...

GGGAAA

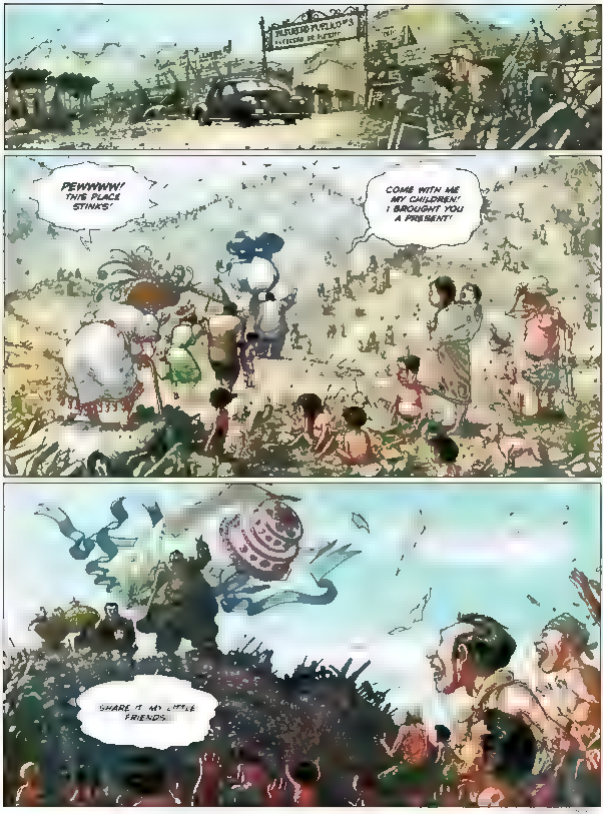

S.L. Plate
IT'S PURE GOLD!
I'LL GIVE YOU THREE THOUSAND PESOS FOR IT!
JESUS CHRIST!
IT'S THE EQUIVALENT OF THREE MONTHS RENT
THE LITTLE ONE CRIES TEARS OF GOLD! WE'RE GONNA BE RICH!
HIC
I ALWAYS SAID THAT MY NEPHEW WASN'T AS DUMB AS HE LOOKED
HIC
DOMINGUITO WHAT DID YOU DREAM ABOUT?
DON'T KNOW
DID YOU HAVE A NIGHTMARE?
DON'T REMEMBER
YOU THINK IF YOU GO BACK TO SLEEP, YOU'LL GET BACK THERE?
DIDN'T DREAM
I WANT TO GO TO SCHOOL
HIC!
HIC!
IDIOT! WE TOLD YOU TO GO BACK TO SLEEP!
AND HAVE A NIGHTMARE THAT WILL MAKE YOU CRY!
BUT I ALREADY SLEPT ALL NIGHT
I WANT TO GET UP
WHATEVER MAKES HIM CRY
HIC
HIS TEARS ARE
OF GOLD!


PANCAKES DOWNSTAIRS WITH MAPLE SYRUP IT'S BEEN A WEEK SINCE MALT'S SHOW
WHERE ARE YOUR BOOKS FOR SCHOOL WITH BRAND NEW COVERS
KNITTED YOU A SCARF
THERE
OUCH!
BOUUH!
SIX MONTHS LATER..
YEAH COMPLAINING I'M INGRATEFUL BRAT YOU'VE GOT FURS ALL OVER
DON'T WANT ANYMORE IT'S ALL MALT'S TO GO WALK PEPO
A RABBIT IS NOT A DOG NO NEED TO WALK HIM AND YOU KID YOU CAN'T GO OUT TWICE'D KIDNAP YOU!
WORK IS SACRED, MIC! YOU'VE GOT FAMILY OBLIGATIONS! AND WE HAVE IMPERIOUS NEEDS. IF YOU CONTINUE THIS WAY, I WILL HAVE TO SLAP YOU EVERY HOUR!
I'LL COOK YOU A GOOD STEAK WE JUST HAD FOUR HUNDRED POUNDS OF ARGENTINIAN BEEF DELIVERED


PLAP!
PLAP!
PLAAFF
PLAAAFF!
I WANT MORE MORE
FUCK! THIS LITTLE SHIT IS BECOMING MASOCHIST! THE MORE HE GETS THE MORE HE SMILES
IT'S A CATASTROPHE!
WE'LL HAVE TO THINK OF ANOTHER PUNISHMENT!
MY GOD I CAN STICK THIS NEEDLE ALL THE WAY AND HE STILL WON'T CRY!
DON'T YOU THINK WE SHOULD LIKE OUR LORD DID TAKE THREE NAILS A PIECE OF WOOD AND CRUCIFY HIM?
IMBECILE! CAN'T YOU SEE THAT PHYSICAL PAIN HAS NO EFFECT ON HIM ANYMORE? WE MUST PLAY WITH HIS EMOTIONS!
HIC!
THAT'S IT PEPE!
NOOO!
WE MUST THINK ABOUT THE FUTURE. WE MUST GIVE HIM A WHITE GUINEA PIG AND WHEN HE GETS ATTACHED TO HIM
IT'S GONNA TAKE HIM A LONG TIME TO DIE IF WE ONLY BLEED THAT MUCH
BRAVO HERE WE ARE WE WILL GET FOR DAYS THOUSANDS OF DOLLARS
I WANT A HOUSE WITH AN OCEAN VIEW
SCHLAK!

NO!
OUT!
HE ALREADY REFUSED AN ANGORA CAT A SQUIRREL A PARROT
NOW HE HATES ALL ANIMALS
WE MUST SWITCH OUR TACTICS
WHAT AN IMBECILE
AND NOW THIS MONKEY
BOUHHH! PEPO, THEN TIA, AND NOW FIDO
BOUHHH! I DON'T WANT ANYMORE ANIMALS
HURRY UP MOM
PERFECT! CHICKEN BLOOD, LOOKS LIKE HUMAN BLOOD
NOW, LAY DOWN IN THE MIDDLE OF THE STREET. YELL, POUR THE COW TRIPES SO THEY'LL LOOK LIKE THEY'RE COMING FROM UNDER YOUR SHIRT
HURRY UP! DOMINGUITO! YOUR MOM JUST GOT RAN OVER, SHE IS DYING!
OH NO!
MOMMY!
MOMMY! PLEASE DON'T DIE!
GOOOODD BBYYEEE MMMY DEEAR SSSSSON
BOUHH!!! SHE IS DEAD! BOUHHH!!
CRY, MY SON, CRY. YOUR SOUL OUT! YOU'LL FEEL BETTER!

IT WAS A JOKE, YOU MORON!
BAD MOMMY!
BAD DADDY
BAD UNCLE
BAD GRANDMA!
I WILL NEVER CRY AGAIN!
IT'S BEEN MONTHS SINCE HE'S CRIED
ALL THE MERCHANTS ARE AFTER US!
HIC
SWITCH OUR TACTICS
HIC
I SHOWED HIM PORNOGRAPHIC AND SADISTIC PICTURES BY SURPRISE AND HE STILL DIDN'T CRY!
I HIRED ACTORS DISGUISED AS DRACULA WEREWOLVES AND OTHER MONSTERS TO FRIGHTEN HIM IN THE MIDDLE OF THE NIGHT AND HE STILL DIDN'T CRY
AT THE ZOO, I THREATENED TO THROW HIM INTO THE LION'S DEN AND HE STILL DIDN'T CRY!
PROMISED HIM I WOULD CUT HIS THROAT WITH A KNIFE IF HE DIDN'T CRY AND HE STILL WOULDN'T CRY. WHAT SHOULD WE DO?
WE'RE GONNA USE A NEW TACTIC. IF HE DOESN'T CRY FOR US, OR FOR HIMSELF, MAYBE HE'LL CRY FOR HUMANITY!


PEWWWWW! THIS PLACE STINKS!
COME WITH ME MY CHILDREN! I BROUGHT YOU A PRESENT!
SHARE IT NO LITTLE FRIENDS.

LOOK DOMINGUITO!
WHAT A SHAME. THEY'RE KILLING EACH OTHER OVER A PIECE OF CAKE!
THE NEW TACTIC IS WORKING! HIC! HE IS CRYING AGAIN!
WE MUST CATCH HIM!
ENOUGH! I WILL FEED YOU ALL!
THEY'RE NOT TEARS OF GOLD! THIS IS HONEY!
HE'S BEEN CRYING FOR HOURS NOW
ONLY ONE OF HIS SWEET TEARS IS ENOUGH TO FEED ONE OF THESE POOR BASTARDS FOR ONE DAY
LOOK HIS HONEY HAS HEALING POWERS!
I DON'T COUGH BLOOD ANYMORE!
HIC
I CAN FINALLY SEE
I CAN WALK!
MIRACULOUS HONEY! IT'S WORTH FAR MORE THAN GOLD!
JUST LET US GO THROUGH YOU LOW LIVES
THE KID HAS CRIED A LOT. HE MUST REST NOW!
ANYONE TOUCHES HIM, I'LL BLOW THEIR BRAINS OUT!
GO CLEAN YOURSELVES UP YOU SCUMS!

MY SWEET LITTLE LOVE OF ME YOU'RE GONNA DO SO MUCH GOOD TO HUMANITY
WE'RE GONNA PUT YOUR TEARS IN BOTTLES, THIS MARVELOUS POTION
AND WE WILL SELL IT AT THE RIGHT PRICE
MOTHER FATHER UNCLE GRANDMA! MY LACRIMAL GLANDS ARE EMPTY. I CAN ONLY CRY ONE LAST TIME
BEING GOOD DOESN'T MEAN WE CAN'T BE GOOD BUSINESS PEOPLE
BUT DON'T YOU WORRY
WE WILL FIND ALL SORTS OF NEW TALES SO THAT YOU CAN CRY PROFUSELY AND PAINLESSLY
MY VERY LAST TEARS WILL GIVE YOU ETERNAL LIFE
YEHHHAAA! TO ETERNITY!
WONDERFUL! HURRY UP, DOMINGUITO! CRY IMMEDIATELY!
MMMM
WHAT A GREAT TASTE!
GO...OD
KNNNN
JUST LIKE I PROMISED YOU
FoEEEEE
EEEEE"
AFTER DEATH
YOU'LL ENJOY AN ETERNAL LIFE

NEW

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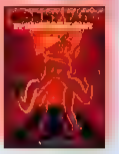

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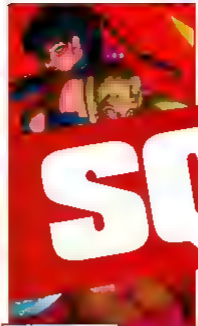
A ROSE IN WINTER
MIKE JANSEN

YOU'RE RIGHT. MY OLD MOTIVES IN WHICH I'VE THE SEA
APPRECIATE YOUR HOSPITALITY, ERNANDO

IN THE END, SIR FERNANDO LADY TASILDA IS PROTECTED BY MY LORD, THE BARON DE ANDROSE AND SHE WAS RAISED TO BE ONE OF THE KING'S MANY LOVERS. SHE LOVED AT LAST.
AH.
HE'S DEAD. I HAD A LITTLE TIME AND THE BARON MADE THE MOST OF IT.
AND

OH, SO PECULIAR! HOW GOOD FOR YOUR COUNTRY TO CAN HE GO DOWN TO THE ONE GROVE IT LOOKS AS SUCH A PLACE TO RAISE THEIR CUB
HUH?

HEY, WAIT!
COME ON, SADDLE UP FAST. A THIN TUBE OF THE DAY IS A PREMONITION OF BIRTH AND THE DAY IS A BIRTH OF EVERYWHERE YOU TURNED YOU'D BE QUITE EVIDENCE TO WHAT A FAST IT MIGHT TRY TO MISSY FUTURE.
HMM. HE'S QUIET BECAUSE OF THE HUN ONES AND BLEEDY BECAUSE OF THE BARON WHOM. SOME OF HIS TERRIFYING ARMY HE GOT VERY SCARED. SO MUCH SO THAT HE ADDED MUCH MORE TO THE BEAM. ** I ASSUME OUR COMPLETION IS TOTAL OF ABOUT SIXTY DUCATS
NOT BAD. BUT THE VERY FABLE WELL HAVE TO SAY THAT YOU BELONGS TO A DUKE AND GET NO LESS THAN 100 DUCATS. SWORD, NO DOUBT HEAVING OUR HEELS FOR 250



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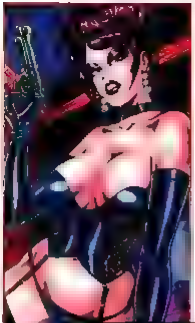

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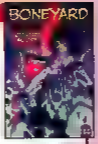

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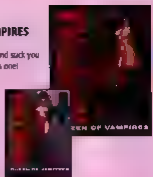

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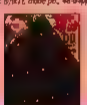

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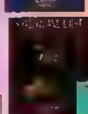

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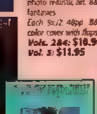

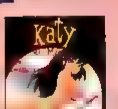

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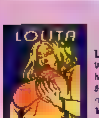

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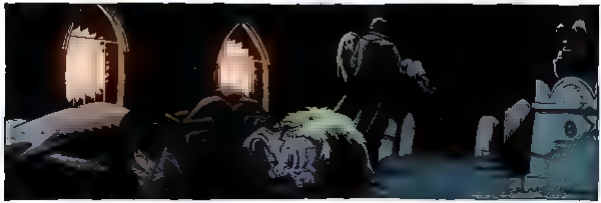
WHO IS NEXT?
I CAN NEVER BE FREE!
SALVATION!

HUH
I THOUGHT I TOLD YOU KIDS NOT TO COME HERE ANYMORE
IT'S GETTING DARK SO YOU BETTER GO HOME ESPECIALLY YOU TUKIE
OI KIDS!

IS IT HARD TO GET BETWEEN YOUR GIRLFRIEND &
WHAM!
WHAT'S THE MATTER, CAT GOT YOUR TONGUE?!
LEAVE US ALONE YOU BASTARDS !!!
HEY
WOK

DID YOU HEAR ANYTHING?
LET'S GET THE HELL OUTTA HERE!!! RUN!!!



WHAT THE HELL WAS THAT MAN?!
NOW SHOULD I + NOW?

WE SHOULDN'T HAVE LEFT WHAT IF
WE SHOULD'VE FINISHED THE BITCH

WE WILL GO BACK AND FINISH THE JOB NOW!

HE'S ALONE AND THERE'S FIVE OF

HEH
snap

UHH
crack

PLEASE DON'T KILL ME
I DIDN'T ANYTHING PLEASE

CRACK

YYAAAAAAAA!

AAAAA!

crunch

NO!
NO!!!

STAB!

WHAT THE HELL
Cough
EVERYTHING WILL BE OK, DON'T WORRY
WHAT HAPPENED HERE RAZE?
Freedom was born as its wonderful life started anew and the light of day dawned on the Demon realm.

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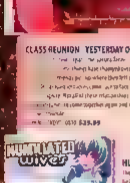

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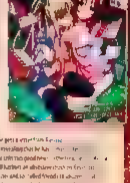

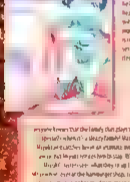

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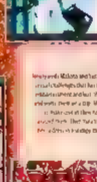

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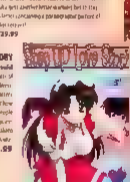

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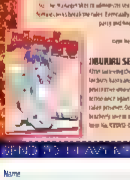

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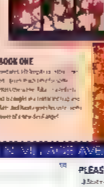

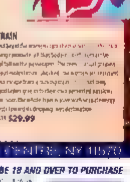

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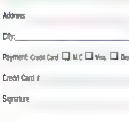

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THAT WAS A STRANGE EXPLOSION. I DIDN'T SEE ANYONE THROW ANYTHING!
IF THEY PLANTED EXPLOSIVE DEVICES ALL AROUND, WE'D BETTER BE CAREFUL!
I DON'T KNOW. IN ANY CASE, WE'RE NOT OF MUCH HELP!
...!

WHERE ARE THEY?
COULD YOU EXPLAIN YOUR THOUGHT FURTHER ALL RIGHT
DON'T BE A SMART ASS WITH ME FUCKING PIECE OF WIRES YOU KNOW EXACTLY WHAT I MEAN!
WHERE DID THESE FUCKERS GO? CARLO MARIPOSA GRENALDO DUBB AND HIS FUCKIN' SISTER
I'VE BEEN LOOKING FOR THEM FOR AN HOUR TIRED OF BEING THE BUTT OF THE JOKE WHERE THE FUCK ARE THEY?
THEY'RE THE SUBWAY
WHAT
THEY'RE GONE ALL OF THEM
BUT WHY?
THEY LEFT LOOKING FOR OTHER SURVIVORS!

THEN IT'S ONLY YOU AND I LEFT ON THIS FUCKING SHIP?
YOU'RE RIGHT IT'S ONLY YOU AND I LEFT
YOU KNOW WHAT, MY GOOD OLD "ISAAC LE" S WEIGH ANCHOR RIGHT NOW! GO START THE ENGINES
AND MEET ME ASAP IN THE PILOT'S CABIN!
THAT'S UNBELIEVABLE! THE ANCHOR AWEIGH! I WOULD GIVE MY LEFT NUT TO SEE THEIR FACES WHEN THEY COME BACK AND SEE THAT "THE DARLING" HAS DISAPPEARED!
BUT I WILL BE LONG GONE!

LOOK WHAT IS THIS?
THEIR EXPLOSIVES!!
PROFESSOR TAKE THIS SHIT AND THROW IT AS FAR AS POSSIBLE
CAN I
TODIE DON'T TRY TO DIVIDATE
BOOM!

OH, MOVE IN. PUT A SHOT IN HIM!

WAIT! WE'RE NOT YOUR ENEMIES!!
WASN'T ASKING YOU
SO SHUT THE FUCK UP!
WE CAME TO HELP YOU! WE HAVE A
SHUT UP!!
I HELP

BECAUSE IT LOOKS LIKE WE NEED TO HELP YOU?
LANCELOT SHOOT THAT MOTHER-FUCKER !
NO PROBLEM!
DON'T DO IT!!

WHAT IS THIS SHIT
THE WORLD IS CHANGING
AND FASTER THAN EVER!
IS THAT YOUR WAY OF REASSURING ME
WHATEVER HAPPENS, TRY TO KEEP US IN THE MIDDLE OF THE RIVER! I WOULDN'T WANT "THE DARLING" TO SINK AND HAVE TO CONTINUE ON FOOT IN THIS
IN THIS
FUCKING HOW DO YOU SAY THIS F.U. KIN UNREAL SHIT

THE CASTLE GO? IT SHOULD BE HERE. I'M SURE OF THAT!!
HOW DO WE KNOW? WE DON'T HAVE ANY REFERENCE ANYMORE! THE TRUTH IS WE SHOULD HAVE NEVER LEFT THAT FAR IN THE FIRST PLACE!
FORGIVE ME! I DIDN'T MEAN WHAT I SAID! I TAKE IT BACK!
A GOOD KING KNOWS HOW TO AND JUST YOU ARE LUCKY
LOOK!!

MERLIN, THIS TIME YOU'RE GOING TO HAVE TO SURPASS YOURSELF. SHOW US THE FULL EXTENT OF YOUR POWERS.

BLOW THIS SHIT UP!
YOU HEARD ME RIGHT I ONLY HAVE A HANDFUL LEFT! AND EVEN IF I HAD HUNDREDS OF THEM, WE WOULDN'T BE ABLE TO GET RID OF THESE THINGS!
IMPOSSIBLE I ONLY HAVE A FEW SPIDERS LEFT!
WHAT?
WE'D BETTER GET OUT OF HERE
WE DON'T MOVE AN INCH. WE'RE GONNA TAKE CARE OF THESE SCUMBAGS. TRUST ME!
MERLIN, THROW AWAY YOUR BUGS. IT'S AN ORDER
YOU BET I DO!
GO AHEAD MY DARLINGS, DO WHAT YOU GOTTA DO!

I DON'T EXACTLY KNOW WHAT THIS IS, BUT ONE THING IS FOR SURE. YOUR SPIDERS WON'T DO SHIT TO THEM. LET'S GET OUTTA HERE!

SHUT THE FUCK UP! YOU SAY ONE MORE WORD AND YOU'RE DEAD!
CALVIN! ONE MORE STEP AND
THE ONE WHO PROTECT US

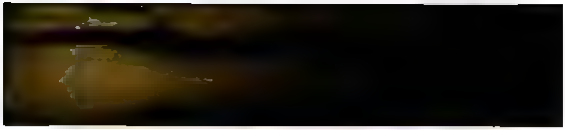
LANCELOT! CALVIN! LET THEM GO. HURRY UP!
IT WON'T HELP YOU TO KEEP US PRISONERS
THANKS
SCUMS
BOOM!!
BAM
BAM

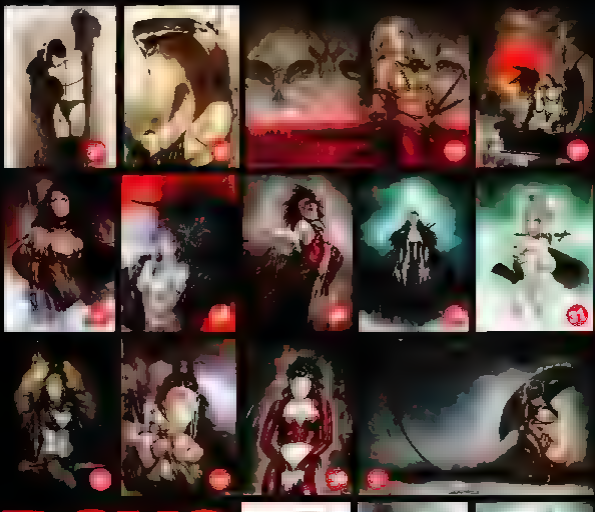
THE ENGINES STOPPED, AND WE CAN'T SEE WHERE WE ARE GOING
WE SHOULD DROP ANCHOR RIGHT HERE
IF I WERE YOU, WILLIAM, I WOULDN'T LEAVE THE BRIDGE
WE CAN'T STAY HERE AND FUCKING DO NOTHING!!
I'M AFRAID THERE'S NOTHING ELSE TO DO
WAIT... DO YOU SEE THAT ISAAC? THAT'S IT! THAT'S PUERTA DE LA FELICIDAD!
WE MADE IT!!
NO, WILLIAM, DON'T SEE ANYTHING
WHAT? RIGHT THERE... CLOSER
...GO FROM PUERTA DE LA FELICIDAD TO SEE IT, WILLIAM, TOO FAR TO EVEN BE THE VICTIMS OF FALLEN NATIONS.
WHAT THE FUCK ARE YOU TALKING ABOUT?!
KILLING ME WON'T HELP YOU, WILLIAM. ESPECIALLY IT WON'T HELP YOU MAKE A CITY APPEAR WHERE THERE IS NONE
GO FUCK YOURSELF!!

AT LAST WE MEET, JODIE.
WHERE ARE WE...

IN ANOTHER WORLD
DON'T UNDERSTAND
EARTH HAS
HOW IS THIS POSSIBLE
THE FLUID IS THE ORIGIN OF THE MUTATION
I DON'T KNOW
IT'S STILL THE SAME GREAT MYSTERY

ACCORDING TO MY BIOLOGICAL CLOCK
IT'S BEEN NINE DAYS SINCE WE LEFT
THE FACTORY FOR PUERTA DE LA FELICIDAD





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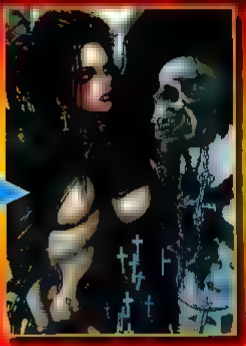

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MELANIE DELON

ARTIST STUDIO

After the *Fairvale* series great success, Norma Editorial has started the *Eclipse* collection, where it will continue exploring the dark and fantastic worlds of new artists. *Elixir*, by the young Parisian author Melanie Delon, is a book where the subjects are not so deeply rooted in dark worlds, with a tendency towards fantasy, a surprising technique and a love for detail that will remind many of the best classical painters.

"Every painting and the emotions it expresses are *different*, but they all have something in common: they express a specific moment in the life of my characters. A moment of loneliness, of silence; the intimate moments that are not meant to be shared, but that I am welcoming you to discover in this book."

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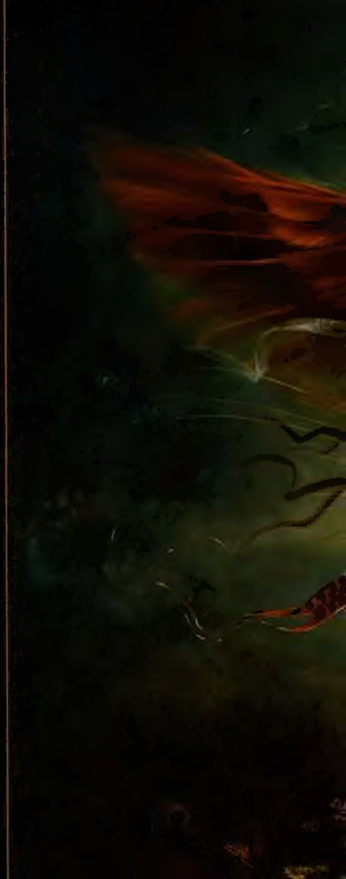

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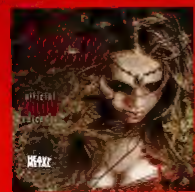

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- ❑ Art of Heavy Metal
- ❑ Dresden Files
- ❑ Luis Royo
- ❑ Luis Royo: Dome
- ❑ Victoria Frances

Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ ST: _____ ZIP: _____

Payment: ❑ Check ❑ Money Order ❑ Credit Card — ❑ M.C. ❑ Visa ❑ Discover ❑ Am. Ex.

Credit Card #: _____ Exp. Date: _____

Signature: _____ Amount: _____

11-08

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